



Ward 6 NPA  
Champlain College, Morgan Room  
February 4, 2016

### Draft MINUTES

*Commenced 7:10 pm*

#### Champlain College Update

- Sandy Yusen
  - Rave emergency alert system is available for neighbors
  - Upcoming Events: Open House, CCM Art Gallery, Theater Production, Facilitated Debate: How Should Vermont Put a Tax on Carbon
    - Will do the best to control traffic near campus
    - Updates about the events will be placed on Front Porch Forum, Hillside page (twice a month, can post in all forums)
  - Cross walk lighting: It is an issue and a request for service was submitted to DPW a year ago. With community support, the project could get placed to higher on the DPW list of projects
    - Comment: Perhaps the crosswalk could be more similar to the one on Maple for visibility reasons
  - Eagle's Landing: By later this Spring the school should have a more definitive schedule of construction. Plan to have students be able to move in Fall 2018

#### School Board and Budget Update

- Stephanie Seguino and Miriam Stoll
  - Three main goals: Finances under control, multi-year plan, Act 46 – a threshold for each district and a severe penalty if the threshold is breached
  - The FY 17 budget was passed by the Board
    - \$69.8 million
    - If you were to maintain all things from this year and rolled them into 2017, there would still be a 3.5 million increase
    - FY 2015 there was a surplus – 1.1 million dollars to fund FY 17
    - 1.4 million in reductions
      - 500,000 from central office
      - 1 million spread out throughout the schools
  - Tax rate increase of about 1.72%

- Tax rate decrease for income payers
- Comment: Caroline Saba – High school students were disappointed that they were not consulted during the process. Concern about the budget cuts
- Comment: Clare – Reaction in PTOs. Though the cuts are disappointing, the school district is on the right path working towards being more fiscally responsible
- Comment: Karen Paul (as a mother not politician) – It is misleading to say the students will not notice a difference as the cuts are implemented. Students need study halls, losing them may be detrimental to some students. It is also troubling there are not always as many chairs as students in a classroom
  - Response by Miriam – Thinking of reconfiguring the spaces in the high school to be more accommodating for the amount of students
- Working to consolidate classes so there are minimal program cuts
- The budget should not affect the math program
- This budget is pretty close to the threshold that was set by Act 46. The City Council has raised the threshold extremely minimally but the school board is not going to increase the budget to take advantage of that small change
- The original increase of teachers' salaries was implemented for Burlington to be competitive with other districts and for equity reasons. Unfortunately it is no longer feasible

#### CDBG Member Appointment

- Karen Freudenberger is going to represent Ward 6

#### Champlain Parkway Discussion

- Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works
  - (See Supporting Documents - Memo to City Council December 2015)
  - There are more benefits than drawbacks to this process but it is not perfect
    - Less traffic
    - All crosswalks have pedestrian signals and buttons
  - Railroad enterprise project would possibly include a roundabout on pine street
  - VTrans has said there cannot be any changes to the design that will increase budget, permits, or amount of time it will take to complete
  - Next step: Enter right of way phase. Parcel acquisition
  - The project has its full permits. Should be done by 2018
  - Two mile long shared-use path is included in the project
  - Question: How much parking would be lost?
    - Will need to find another location for park and ride
    - The Champlain College parking lot would be impacted to an extent
  - Trying to make Pine Street more pedestrian available
- Steve Goodkind
  - This project has been very lengthy
  - Originally meant to connect to Battery Street
  - The new design does not accomplish anything.
    - It is a street that belongs in an intersection not in front of someone's house

- It does not do what the project had intended
- The project was to address truck traffic
  - Need to connect the “Road to Nowhere”
- Pine should be a complete street as an alternative to the Parkway
- Doesn’t believe that the City will have to pay 7 million if project is not completed
- Thinks the current project is a disaster – disruptive and destructive
- Tony Reddington
  - Project should address how we can make our neighborhood safer and better
  - Current plan avoids the real need which is roundabouts and safe streets
    - Only one person was injured at a roundabout in the past 50 years in VT
    - The four intersections of this project could be roundabouts
  - The community does not want this project and it can still be stopped

#### City Council Update

- Joan Shannon, Ward 5 and 6
  - Town Meeting Day is March 1st
  - Charter changes
    - Increase members on the Police and Parks & Rec Commissions from 5 to 7 in an effort to increase diversity
    - North Avenue
      - There was a petition to put an issue on the ballot – “maintain 4 lanes on North Avenue”
    - Taxi ordinance update
      - To address companies like Uber
      - Background checks for taxi drivers – Uber does their own background checks and does not want to share that information with the City, including names, without an audit
    - Approved the development agreement with Burlington College – 12 acres purchased for conservation
    - Form Based Code
- Karen Paul
  - Ballot issues
    - Audit – give the most important financial information instead of all of the information which isn’t being done anyway
    - The North Ave ballot question was added in the interest of democracy but the council will be working actively to keep it from passing
    - Burlington Town Center – Public and private partnership
    - Waterfront Moran Project

*Adjourned at 9:10 pm*

*Minutes submitted by Danielle Mund, Interim Community Engagement Specialist*